

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of making a differential housing assembly having a housing including a ring gear integrally formed therein and a housing cover, said method comprising the steps of:

forging a conical frustum from a steel rod;

deforming the frustum between upper and lower die halves of a tool to produce a primary housing preform having an annular rim;

machining the primary housing preform to form a first external journal surface and an internal spherical surface;

machining a plurality of teeth in the annular rim defining the ring gear; and

heat treating and finish machining the primary housing preform to final dimensions.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including the step of forming a blind hole in the primary housing preform and piercing the blind hole to form a hole.

3-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of machining includes drilling and reaming lubrication oil holes into the primary housing preform.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including the step of forging a housing cover preform and machining the housing cover perform to an intended final shape, including a second external journal surface.

14-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of assembling includes installing a subassembly comprising bevel gears, bevel pinions, washers, and a pinion shaft inside the housing.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of assembling includes inserting the housing cover within the housing.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of assembling includes fitting ball bearing assemblies onto said first and second journal surfaces onto the housing and housing cover.

25-34. (Cancelled)